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MARY McGRORY

Professors' Advice on Vietnam

What two professors, both distinguished ex-diplomats, told the new round of the Fulbright hearings is that Uncle Sam often behaves like a "nervous Nellie" on the world scene.

Prof. George F. Kennan, former ambassador to Russia and Yugoslavia, said our policy towards the Soviets is "full of contradictions and hesitations." He suggested we "should be forthcoming and gracious as befits a great nation" and "not act like a little, tiny, frightened country."

Prof. Edwin O. Reischauer of Harvard, former ambassador to Japan, said we have a self-defeating tendency "to interpret everything in terms of a Communist conspiracy" and have bedeviled ourselves with the "idea that the Communists are supermen."

Uncle Sam, they argued, should be more human facing outward. He should be firm but not overbearing, helpful but not officious, rational, tolerant and quick to take advantage of the "normal impulses" of nationalism that is the real threat to monolithic Communist expansion.

They advocated, in short, a foreign policy based on noblesse oblige, a concept that was shattering to some of the case-hardened Red-baiters on the committee.

"We were born to liberty and to plenty," said Kennan. "We didn't have to fight for these things; our ancestors did it for us." Our good fortune should not be a source of complacency, he said. Instead,

it imposes on us a greater obligation to moderate our political views.

Reischauer, speaking with an academic freedom the senators must have envied, went even further. We should, he suggested, "admit to the world we made a historic mistake" in intervening in Vietnam—an involvement, he said, "we stumbled into."

"I think we have too much face in the world," he said.

Several conservatives on the committee were ruffled by those attacks on chauvinism, complacency and what they regarded as the "realities of the situation." They pressed the professors for specifics.

It happens that while both sympathize with the administration on the need for remaining in Vietnam, they dissent on the bombing of the north: Kennan diffidently, because he does not know all the factors; Reischauer unequivocally, because he feels "our concept that we would bring them to the table by bombing was a complete psychological misunderstanding."

The commander-in-chief in the White House, while he might object to the content, could have found no fault with the tone.

Kennan explained, "in contrast to many people, I have a very high degree of faith in the good will and seriousness of the people who are guiding our policies."

Reischauer dismissed the idea that our presence in Vietnam had contributed to the downfall of communism in neighboring Indonesia.

"A group of generals hit back," he said crisply, disposing of a favorite State Department thesis. "I don't think they were stopping to figure out where American military power was; they were fighting for their lives."

"But," he added diplomatically, "I think there is more dependence on our power and good will than most people will admit."

Reischauer encountered resistance when he blithely suggested that the Chinese dragon has more smoke than firepower.

"Maybe I've been over-impressed by the briefings from the Atomic Energy Commission, the military and the Central Intelligence Agency," he said dubiously.

Both professors were more resigned than the doves to our presence in Vietnam and more hopeful about our future with China than the hawks. Reischauer held up the Japanese as examples of cool in the face of the Chinese nuclear menace. He had observed "no great nervousness" among them, he told the Senators.

It was, in sum, two bad days for clichés on Capitol Hill. Not all the senators were persuaded by the uninhibited academicians, the unorthodox ideas. But comforted by the presence of the TV cameras, they kept Kennan for four hours. And when Reischauer concluded, Sen. Wayne L. Morse, D-Ore., a man not easily pleased, said, "If I were President, I would make you my secretary of state."

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CPYRGHT

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Finds His Trip May Have Been for CIA

By Robert E. Smith

Hempstead—A Long Island lawyer has revealed how he was hired by a New York City firm five years ago to attend an international student festival in Finland to promote the American point of view and gather information about foreign delegations.

The lawyer, Arthur W. Renander Jr., 32, said that he was recruited in the summer of 1962 by the Independent Research Service Inc. to work at the World Festival of Youth in Helsinki. He said that he had suspected at the time "that the government was backing this sort of thing" but it wasn't until he returned from Finland that he learned that the New York firm was being financed by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Renander said that the intelligence agency was never mentioned when he was recruited and that when he learned later of its part in the financing, he kept quiet about it. In an interview he said that he had kept quiet because "someone had to do the job. I have no regrets."

Independent Research Service Inc. was named in Ramparts magazine and in press reports last February as a recipient of CIA funds. Renander, who was 27 at the time he was hired by the firm, turned out to be one of 160 students who were sent to the festival to do work for the intelligence agency.

Renander said: "I was assigned to learn all I could about some of the English-speaking African delegations, how many in the delegation, where they were from, who paid their way, what they said . . ."

The government and student affairs leaders had long suspected that the festival, usually held behind the Iron Curtain or close to it, was sponsored by the Communists to influence young people all over the world. U.S. officials feared that the American point of view was not represented well enough to combat the Soviet Union's salesmanship.

And so Renander and his colleagues spent hectic 10 days and nights in Helsinki maneuvering among student delegates. Renander befriended a Uganda delegate who had been silenced at one seminar and urged him to tell news reporters that the festival was one-sided and controlled. He collected admission tickets to meetings and tried to fill audiences with Americans who would stand up and rebut arguments. At the grand finale of the 12,000-delegate parley, the former Amherst College student

who lives now at 299 Jackson St., Hempstead, produced a finale of his own.

The festival marked the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing with criticism of the United States, of course," Renander recalled. "But Russia was testing nuclear bombs at the time, and we wanted to remind the students of this." The conclusion of the festival was held on the banks of one of the Gulf of Finland's many inlets. Another American and Renander rented a small boat and erected a large sign on it saying, in Russian and English, "Soviet Union, Stop Nuclear Tests."

"It is illegal to propagandize against Russia in Finland, and so we had several police boats chasing us before long," Renander said. "After they took our sign, they chased us out to sea." Renander said that he was denounced by other delegates as "a Fascist provocateur."

Renander describes himself now as "a liberal Republican." He has worked in politics as an aide first for former Assembly Speaker Joseph F. Carlino of Long Beach and later for the current Assembly Minority Leader Perry B. Duryea (R-Montauk). He is an aide for Sol Wachtler, North Hempstead Supervisor and Republican candidate for Nassau County executive.



Arthur W. Renander Jr.
Mission in Helsinki

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